California Center for Innovative Transportation

Purpose

This is to provide information on the California Center for Innovative Transportation (CCIT) (www.calccit.org). In cases when proposal writers choose to include the services of CCIT, a description of the work and the budget for CCIT staff and facilities should also be included. For collaboration on projects with CCIT, please contact the Director of CCIT, Hamed Benouar at benouar@calccit.org .

Description of CCIT and its services

The research sponsored by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is aimed at developing transportation products and services that can be deployed to improve the efficiency, safety, security and mobility of Californians who travel on the state's multi modal transportation network. In order to improve the potential for deployment of research, Caltrans invested in the California Center for Innovative Transportation (CCIT) located in downtown Berkeley, CA.

CCIT was established by the University of California with sponsorship from Caltrans. The role of CCIT is to work with researchers, practitioners and industry to facilitate and accelerate the implementation of transportation research and innovation. CCIT staff and facilities are available to support researchers to enhance the potential for deployment of their work at all stages from concept development to full scale implementation. CCIT maintains relevant contacts with industry and practitioners in all levels of government to be available to provide input to the research in the early stages of concept development and to provide facilities and personnel to assist in the implementation of the research when it is ready for field testing and small scale deployment. CCIT's conference and video conferencing facilities in downtown Berkeley are available to be used by researchers to collaborate with industry and public agency sponsors. CCIT provides easy access to testbed facilities such as the Berkeley Highway Lab and the Southern California Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS) Testbed. These facilities are being integrated by CCIT with support from the University of California at Irvine. Starting in July 2005, a single point access will be available remotely through the web and a secured access to additional state and local traffic data will be available on site at the CCIT location.

In the early stages of concept and laboratory pilot development, CCIT can assist in identifying and addressing implementation issues and preparing the preliminary business case. For example, CCIT can arrange for review and feedback from practitioners and industry through the contacts it maintains on a regular basis. CCIT can assist researchers navigate through Caltrans and other public agencies to identify the right practitioners that can provide input and potentially champion the research. In the field operation stage CCIT can collaborate with researchers in identifying the right site and personnel/supporters that are willing to field test the research. CCIT staff will work with the researchers, practitioners and industry as appropriate to help field test the research, further develop the business case and prepare for small scale deployment. CCIT's role becomes even more important in preparing a proposal and in managing the small scale deployment stage. This is the stage when the practitioners are responsible for operating the project with minor support from the researchers. Prior to moving to this stage, CCIT will work with the researchers, practitioners and industry to prepare the proposal and get the appropriate approvals for the location of the deployment, the business case including the personnel needed and the funding. CCIT uses information from this stage to prepare all documents that are needed to support the large scale deployment. These documents include the business case that would eventually support a Feasibility Study Report (FSR) and the performance specifications that are needed for Caltrans to include the product in their approved product list. These specifications are especially important in procuring the product through competitive bidding.